

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
August 2, 2001

BUDGET UPDATE

The Legislature passed the biennial state budget on July 26 after it's conference committee finished budget deliberations. There are numerous RR Program items in the current version of the budget bill. Some important items include:

- Brownfields site assessment grants will continue to be administered by DNR, with \$1.7 million annually.
- \$7 million per year is available for Commerce brownfield grants, with modifications to the grant criteria and cycle, and money earmarked for Beloit, Amery, and Kenosha.
- There's a new brownfields green space grant program at DNR for \$1million.
- There are 5 two-year project positions at DNR for geo-location of brownfields.
- The Sustainable Urban Development Zone (SUDZ) program is retained with \$525,000 in funding. Of that, \$150,000 is earmarked for the City of Platteville and \$250,000 for the City of Fond du Lac.
- The land recycling loan program is streamlined.
- Modification of the local government cost recovery process (s. 292.35, Wis. Stats.) allows local governments to use this process for properties they don't own if they agree to pay for more than 50% of the cleanup. Statutory improvements to this process which were included in the Governor's budget are NOT included in the latest budget bill.
- There are statutory changes to the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption and other liability exemptions.
- There are a number of improvements to the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program.

Final action taken by both houses is an amendment to the budget bill that contains all of the provisions passed by the Joint Committee on Finance. The complete budget bill passed by Joint Finance is "Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 55". The results of the conference committee's work can be found in the amendment "Conference Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 55". In order to see everything in the budget bill, you need to consider what is included in the bill, "Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 55" and the conference amendment.

To get more information on the bill and the conference amendment, you can read the Legislative Fiscal Bureau budget papers. The two most significant papers are "Comparative Summary of Budget Recommendations - Governor and Joint Committee on Finance - June, 2001" and "Comparative Summary of Budget Provisions (Senate, Assembly and Conference Committee) - July 25, 2001". These can be found on the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's web site: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2001-03budeddocuments/JFC/tableofcontents.htm>

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2001-03budeddocuments/ConferenceCommittee/ConferenceCommittee.htm>

The actual statutory language in the budget bill is available on the Legislature's web site:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2001/data/SB55-ssA1-CA1.pdf>

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2001/data/SB55-SSA1.pdf>

Now that the budget has been passed by the Legislature, the Governor has until August 30 to sign it. None of the items included in the budget bill are final until it is signed; the Governor may veto sections of the bill. The RR program plans to prepare a summary of RR related items in the budget after signature by the Governor. If you have questions about RR Program brownfield items in the budget you may contact Michael Prager at pragem@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-261-4927. For information about the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program you may contact Robin Schmidt at schmirr@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-267-7569.

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